

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/936,816

Examiner

Abolfazl Tabatabai

Applicant(s)

WERNER ET AL.

Art Unit

2623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on December 21, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 46-51, 82 and 83 (now renumbered 1-8).
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 4/13/05; 5/4/04; 1/2; 1/27/04; 9/23/03
- ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
- ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- ☐ Other _____

12/18/024/26/024/19/02

JINGGEWU
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Applicant's Attorney (Mr. Gene Z. Robinson with Reg. No 33,351), on Monday February 27, 2006, without traverse.
3. The application has been amended as follows:
4. In specification, page 1, under title, insert--- BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION ---.
5. In specification, page 1, before first paragraph, insert--- Field OF THE INVENTION---.
5. In specification, page 3, first line, delete " According to a first aspect, the invention provides a method as set out in Claim 1." insert--- BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION ---.
6. In specification, page 8, after line 7, insert--- BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS---.

7. In specification, page 8, after line 21, and before referring to Fig. 1, insert---
DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION ---.

Drawings

8. The drawings were received on January 4, 2002. These drawings are accepted by the Examiner.

Reasons for Allowance

9 The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

The prior art of record fails to teach or suggest, adjusting picture sample values based on watermark values wherein the watermark is derived from a combination of a number of substantially independent watermarks or wherein a number of substantially independent watermarks are embedded in each picture wherein said substantially independent watermarks satisfy the following criteria in combination into other features and elements of **claim 1**.

$$W_1^2 = \dots = W_N^2 = 1$$

$$E[W_1] = \dots = E[W_N] = 0, \text{ where } E \text{ is the expectation operator}$$

$$E[W_k \cdot W_n] = 0 \text{ if } k \neq n$$

10. **Claims 46-51, 82 and 83 (now renumbered 1-8) are allowed.**

11. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to ABOLFAZL TABATABAI whose telephone number is (571) 272-7458.

The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Jingge Wu, can be reached at (571) 272-7429. The fax phone number for organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Abolfazl Tabatabai

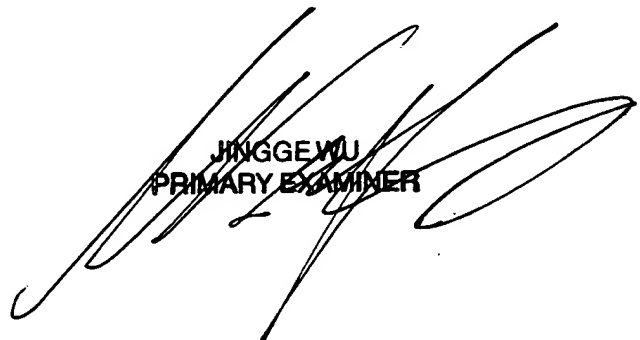
Patent Examiner

Group Art Unit 2623

February 21, 2006

A-Tabatabai

JINGGE WU
PRIMARY EXAMINER

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Jingge Wu, the Primary Examiner.